

for the hour. A plan was accordingly arranged by which they hoped to come to terms with the rebels, and at the same time afford the threatened ministers an opportunity of escape. The rebels were invited to meet the King next day at Mile End, outside the city. If all the mob moved off there, London would be left in the hands of the well-meaning citizens for at least some hours, and Sudbury and Hales could get away.¹ The Archbishop, conscious that he was supposed to stand between the good King and his subjects, had resigned the Great Seal into Eichard's hands the day before, when the rebels entered Southwark ;² but his resignation had done nothing to appease the mob. In the early hours of Friday morning he attempted to escape by water from the Tower stairs, but was observed by the watch on St. Catherine's Hill and forced to abandon the attempt.³ His only chance lay in the plan contrived to draw away the besiegers.

As the day broke the multitude in front of the Tower renewed their discordant clamour. They were pacified by the order to meet the King at Mile End, but only a part of the rebel army moved off thither. Enough remained to command the exits of the fortress and to continue the work of destruction in the city.⁴ It was still early in the day when the King, with a cavalcade of the highest nobles of the realm, rode out of the Tower Gates to meet the rebels at the rendezvous. Sudbury and Hales were left behind. They understood that they would probably be sacrificed and were preparing for death. The King's half brothers, the Earl of Kent and Sir John Holland, ventured to ride out in the royal train, but as soon as they got into the country galloped off across the fields to find some safer place than Mile End. Most of the nobility, however, showed their loyalty to the King, if not their trust in the good faith of his subjects, by appearing with him at the place of conference. This place was a meadow which the Londoners used for their sports in summer-time; it can scarcely have been two miles distant from the Tower by road, but it was then well out of the

¹ IT. E., 516, line 17. ² *Feed.*, iv. 123. » *H. B.*, 517.

* *Wals.*, i. 458 ; *Froiss.*, ii. 470.